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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/807,943	04/20/2001	Yan Hong	2977-123	9343
6449	7590	01/29/2004	EXAMINER	
ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & MANBECK, P.C. 1425 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20005			MAHATAN, CHANNING	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1631	

DATE MAILED: 01/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/807,943

Applicant(s)

HONG ET AL.

Examiner

Channing S Mahatan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 October 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9-14,16 and 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8 and 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

APPLICANTS' ARGUMENTS

Applicants' arguments filed 20 October 2003 have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive. Rejections and/or objections not reiterated from previous office actions are hereby withdrawn. The following rejections and/or objections are either reiterated or newly applied. They constitute the complete set presently being applied to the instant application.

CLAIMS UNDER EXAMINATION

Claims herein under examination are claims 1-17.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

The rejection of claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter is maintained for reasons of record.

Applicants state the following in the response filed 18 July 2003:

"Claim 17 is now in a form that provides a functional interrelationship between the descriptive material in the data record and a process of the computer that provides a practical application of the data record: namely, to produce a DNA fingerprint having practical application in the fields of genomics and biotechnology. As such, claim 17 now defines an article of manufacture (computer-readable storage medium) that has a practical application and that causes a computer to execute a specific process."

However, the instant claim does not provide a functional interrelationship between the data record (non-functional descriptive material) and a process of the computer. The computer-readable storage medium does not cause a computer to execute a specific process; absent is any executable code that would cause a computer to execute a specific process.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 112 1st Paragraph

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

NEW MATTER

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The introduction of the following amendment “intensity symbols, wherein when said storage medium is coupled to a computer and said data record is read from said storage medium is coupled to a computer and said data record is read from said storage medium by said computer, said computer converts said sequence of classified peak intensity symbols into a unique DNA fingerprint identifying a specific trait of said source of genomic DNA identified in said information field” in claim 17 is considered new matter. There did not appear to be any disclosure or contemplation of for the above indicated amendment to claim 17. None of these concepts were found and none is apparent. Therefore, the introduction of claim 17 is considered NEW MATTER.

SCOPE OF ENABLEMENT

For reasons of record the rejections of claims 1-7, 9-14, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, are maintained because the specification, while being enabling for the disclosed method for obtaining DNA fingerprint profile data wherein the step of aligning

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fragment sizes into discrete bins is by a binning algorithm based on “spring” and rubberband” energies (pages 11-13 of the Specification), does not reasonably provide enablement for obtaining DNA fingerprint profile data through alignment by all other means.

Applicants submit the specification provides a fully enabling disclosure such that the invention as set forth in claims 1-17 can be made and used by one of ordinary skill in the art without any undue experimentation and the Examiner has failed to present any evidence to the contrary, wherein “...the Examiner has failed to present any Wands analysis at all in simply concluding that those of ordinary skill in the art would not be able to carry out the claimed invention without undue experimentation”. Applicants’ assertion is unpersuasive and incorrect.

The instant claims broadly embrace other means for obtaining DNA fingerprint profile data through alignment and therefore the claims are not commensurate in scope with the original disclosure. Applicants are to refer to the previous office action mailed 18 July 2003 for an outline of the binning algorithm that is commensurate in scope with the original disclosure. With respect to Wands analysis the previous office action, mailed 18 July 2003, stated “No other methods for obtaining DNA fingerprint profile data through alignment are disclosed. None appear to have been known in the art. No guidance, direction, or examples are provided such that one of ordinary skill in the art would have known practice [how] to use the claimed invention.” Thus, the specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

Additionally, the previous office action indicated allowable claims (8 and 15) if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

Claims 8 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

ACTION IS FINAL, AS NECESSITATED BY AMENDMENT

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See M.P.E.P. § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

EXAMINER INFORMATION

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technical Center 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Technical Center 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1988), 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993), and

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1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993) (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.6(d)). The CM1 Fax Center number is either (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Channing S. Mahatan whose telephone number is (571) 272-0717. The Examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael P. Woodward, Ph.D., can be reached on (703) 308-4028.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to Legal Instruments Examiner, Tina M. Plunkett, whose telephone number is (703) 305-3524 or to the Technical Center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Date:

January 22, 2004

Examiner Initials:

CSM

Marianne P. Allen

MARIANNE P. ALLEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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